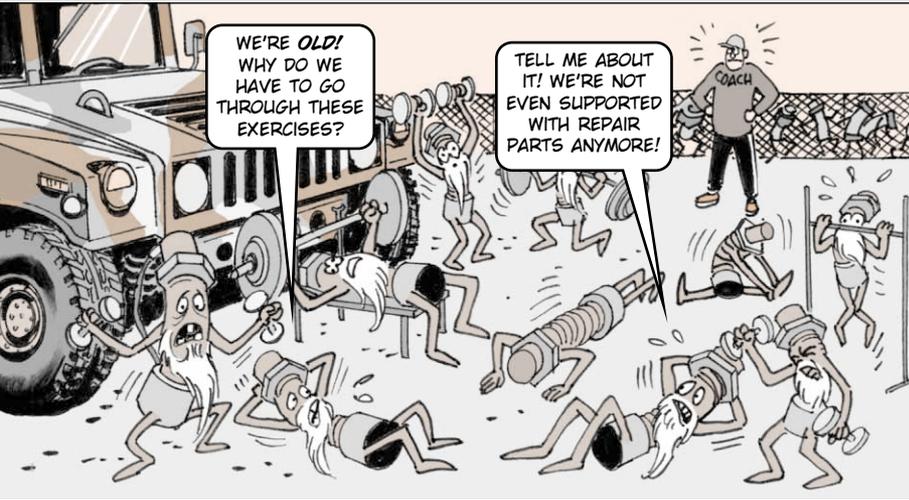
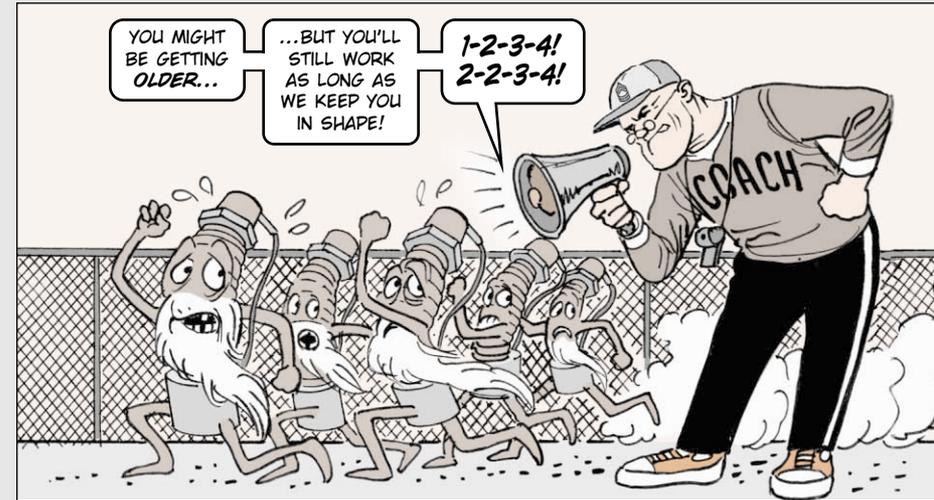


KEEP THE AS-3900



IN SHAPE



Dear Editor,

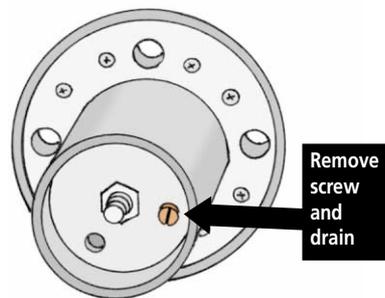
Many of our vehicle-installed SINGGARS still have the AS-3900 antenna, NSN 5985-01-189-7925, and not the replacement AS-3900A, NSN 5985-01-308-8988.

The AS-3900 is no longer supported with preventive maintenance instructions or repair parts. In fact, when it goes bad, you turn it in for the Alpha model.

However, I see no reason why the AS-3900 can't be maintained and given a longer life. Just some basic PMCS will keep the antenna in shape and delay replacement costs. Here's what I recommend:

The main problem is water getting into the matching unit. I have found cup-fulls of water in matching units. The matching unit should be regularly checked for cracks in the upper housing. The upper housing should be kept clean and small cracks should be sealed with RTV.

Matching units need to be regularly drained through the hole in the bottom of the matching unit by removing the screw.



Another problem is missing screws! A missing screw lets moisture into the housing.

The original screw is no longer available, but I've found a substitute that works. Order stainless steel screw, NSN 5305-00-054-6666. Put a sealing washer, NSN 5330-00-448-1018, on with the screw. Finish the job with a dab of silicone grease, NSN 6850-00-880-7616, on the threads.

Replace missing screw with this one



Jim Uber
AMSA #76
Niagra Falls, NY

From the desk of the Editor

Thanks for the antenna tips, Mr. Uber. We're all for any ideas that extend the life of equipment through preventive maintenance. Operators, if you still have the AS-3900 antenna supporting your vehicle-installed SINGGARS, make a PMCS plan of your own in order to keep the antenna working. Also, if you're missing those screws, take Mr. Uber's recommendation and order them today.